

**Export of Cotton**

3736. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the cotton is being exported;

(b) the total amount of cotton exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(c) the target fixed for the Export during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Although authentic records in this regard are not available, according to the information available, it appears that India has been exporting cotton since 1923-24.

(b) During the cotton season 1990-91, 11.90 lakh bales of cotton were exported. During the current cotton season 1991-92 cotton during 1991-92, about 12,000 bales of cotton (Bengal Deshi) have been exported upto 12th March, 1992.

(c) Government released quotas for export of 12.55 lakh bales of cotton season. During 1991-92 cotton season Government has released 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton for export. An export quota of 4 lakh bales of cotton was also placed at the disposal of Cotton Corporation of India to be operated by it during 1991-92 season from time to time keeping in view of the prevailing prices. However, the CCI has not operated its quota in view of the upward trend in cotton prices during the season.

**Reward to Police Personnel for Confiscated Smuggled Goods**

3737. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reward is given to police personnel for confiscating smuggled goods and detecting cases of income tax evasion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of rewards given to police personnel in Maharashtra particularly in Sindhudurg district for confiscating smuggled goods during the last three years;

(d) if no reward is given to police personnel, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to permit all law enforcing agencies to prosecute and initiate action against smugglers to check smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). All Government servants including police personnel of the central and State Government are eligible for monetary reward upto a maximum of 20% of the market value of goods seized depending upon various factors such as the risk involved to the Government servant in working out the case, the difficulty in securing the information, the extent to which the vigilance of the staff led to the seizure, special initiative, efforts and inequity displayed, etc. and whether besides the seizure of contraband goods, the owners/organisers/financiers/racketeers as well as the carriers of the smuggled goods have been apprehended or not.

Under the Income-Tax Act, however, the responsibility for detecting income tax evasion is of the Income tax authorities specified under the said Act and, therefore, police personnel are not entitled to any reward in detecting income-tax evasion.

(c) and (d). Some police officers of Sindhudurg district have been sanctioned and paid monetary reward of Rs. 1,04,000

during the calendar years 1987 and 88 for playing a part in the seizure of contraband goods. However, the information regarding the amount of rewards given to police personnel of Maharashtra, particularly in Sindhudurg district during the last 3 years is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.

### **Import of Natural Rubber**

3738. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural rubber imported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a large quantity of natural rubber imported from Malaysia in 1990 is still lying unutilised with the State Trading Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the justification for importing it; and

(e) the resultant loss incurred by S.T.C on account of this import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The State Trading Corporation of India Limited has imported the following quantities of natural rubber during the last three years:-

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1988-89 51,363 Tonnes

1989-90 26,549 Tonnes

1990-91 31,699 Tonnes

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(b) A quantity of 12,275 MT of natural

rubber imported by STC in 1990 is still with them.

(c) Stock had been retained to ensure adequate inventory of natural rubber in India for meeting needs of the domestic industry.

(d) The imports were made on the basis of the projected demand-supply position and the need to maintain adequate inventory.

(e) The resultant loss, if any would be known only after the stocks are liquidated.

### **Cooperation in the Field of Defence**

3739. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries cooperating India in the field of defence; and

(b) the details of the agreements made in this regard country-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). India has defence cooperation arrangements with a number of friendly foreign countries. In view of the sensitive nature of the matter it will not be in the national security interest to disclose details about the countries involved and the nature and extent of cooperation agreements we have with them.

### **Export of Coffee**

3740. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Coffee is becoming more popular abroad;

(b) if is, the steps taken to increase the export of coffee during the last three years;